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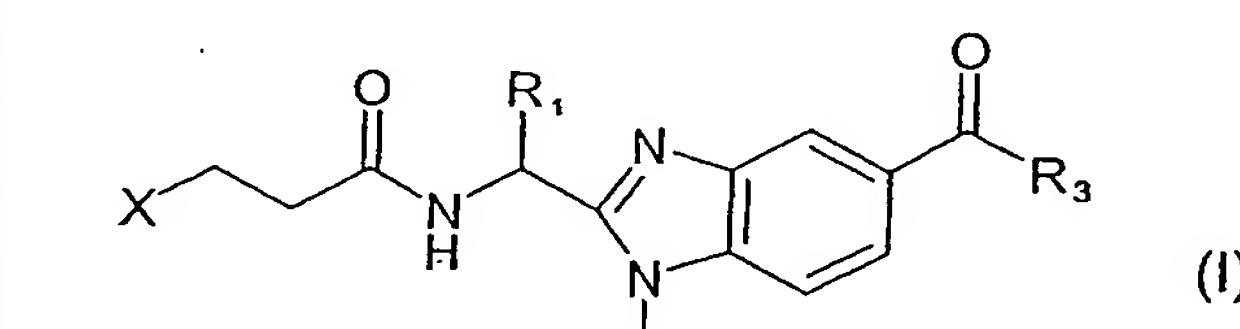
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(57) Abstract: Benzimidazole compounds of the general formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or esters thereof are peptide deformylase inhibitors useful in the treatment or prevention of infections and other diseases in which peptide deformylases are involved, especially in the treatment of bacterial and parasitic infections, for example infections fully or partly caused by microorganisms belonging to *Staphylococcus*, *Enterococcus*, *Streptococcus*, *Haemophilus*, *Moraxella*, *Escherichia*, *Mycobacterium*, *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *Bordetella*, *Clostridium*, *helicobacter*.

Mycoplasma, *Pseudomonas*, *Chlamydia*, *Rickettsia*, *Klebsiella*, *Campylobacter*, *Legionella*, or *Neisseria*.